

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the ☒ Record 1 of 1
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I agree with part A. Reducing the number of Amateur Radio Classes, but I feel that the proposal submitted by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is a better plan. The ITU requires a morse requirement, but even that is falling away in some countries. I feel the focus should be on technology. Therefore the CW (continuous wave) form of communications is recognized as a valid mode, but not a premium mode. The increase in the number of amateurs with greater privileges (i.e. phone/image/amateur etc.) on the HF bands can only help in increasing the trend of technically good operators with skills in the digital communications field.

The ARRL proposal is a WIN-WIN situation. There is no loss of privileges. Any ruling that moves backward is not in the best interest of our country. To say that 20 words per minute code make you a fantastic operator is wrong. I have listened to 75 meters, all the amateur extras that feel they own the bands. Listen to the new hams that came up as technicians and then to tech plus. I think you will find excellent operators in that group. There is no reason to demote this class as docket 98-143 intends.

Make your ruling an invitation to the future operators of our ranks to move ahead. In a time where we find radio as a hobby losing to the internet in a youth's eyes, we need to not limit our field of interest with an arcane filter. The ARRL proposal would emphasize the technical knowledge needed for licensing. As the Education Chair for the Fox River Radio League, a public service club in Illinois, I feel very strongly that we should encourage our new hams rather than discourage them. The advent of the No-Code Tech boosted our ranks when it was needed. The help the community by providing emergency radio operators in time of need. If it was flood, storm, earthquake, or hurricane, these new technician class operators were there to help wherever and in many cases whenever it was needed. The FCC proposal that basically demotes the TECH PLUS is flawed. The ARRL proposal should be considered instead.

Michael E. Urso KB9KFE
Education Chairman - Fox River Radio League, Aurora, Illinois

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